

S 2173

Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Oct 8, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Oct 8, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2173>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]

Party: Democratic • State: MI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Oct 8, 2015
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 25, 2016
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 7, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 8, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3712	Related bill	Oct 9, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Improving Access to Mental Health Act of 2015

This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to: (1) increase the Medicare reimbursement rate for clinical social worker services, (2) exclude clinical social worker services from the prospective payment system in which predetermined amounts form the basis for payment under Medicare, and (3) alter the definition of "clinical social worker services" as it relates to Medicare.

Under current law, "clinical social worker services": (1) include services performed for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses, and (2) exclude services furnished to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facility as a condition of the facility's participation in the Medicare program. The bill repeals these provisions and instead specifies that such services include certain types of health behavior assessment and intervention.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 8, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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